

Remarks

Claims 1-35 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-32 are rejected. Claims 33-35 are newly added. Claims 1, 10, 13, 19, 20, and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2003 for the above-identified patent application from February 10, 2004 through and including April 12, 2004. February 10, 2004 is a Saturday. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$420.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully submit that although the Office Action Summary acknowledges a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121, the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. 120 are for the benefit claim of a prior nonprovisional application and the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(e) are for the priority claims of a prior provisional application (MPEP 201.11). Applicants respectfully submit that the above-referenced patent application claims priority to a U.S. provisional patent application with serial number 60/173,844 filed on December 30, 1999 (specification, page 1). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office Action Summary reflect that the above-referenced patent application makes a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(e) and not under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the title. Applicants have amended the title. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Leshem et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,310) is respectfully traversed.

Leshem et al. describe a map generation method which greatly facilitates a visualization by a user of an overall architecture of a Web site, and allows the user to navigate the map in an intuitive manner to explore content of the Web site (column 2, lines 28-32). To generate the site map, a structural representation of the Web site,

specifying the actual arrangement of content objects and links, is initially reduced, for purposes of generating the site map, to a hierarchical tree representation in which each content object of the Web site is represented as a node of the tree (column 2, lines 32-37). A recursive layout method is then applied which uses the parent-child node relationships, as such relationships exist within the tree, to spatially position the nodes on a display screen such that children nodes are positioned around and connected to their respective immediate parents (column 2, lines 37-43). The result is a map which comprises a hierarchical arrangement of parent-child node clusters in which parent-child relationships are immediately apparent (column 2, lines 45-48). In general, a Web site corresponds to a particular Internet domain name, such as "merc-int.com," and includes the content of or associated with a particular organization (column 6, lines 17-21). A Web site can conveniently be represented as a graph in which each node of the graph corresponds to a content object of the Web site, and in which each interconnection between two nodes represents a link within the Web site (column 6, lines 46-51). Maps are generated by Astra using an HTTP-level scanning process which involves the reading and parsing the Web site's HTML pages to identify the architecture, i.e., the arrangement of URLs and links, of the Web site, and to obtain various status information about the Web site's URLs (column 9, lines 37-44).

Claim 1 recites a method for facilitating Web-based information exchange, said method comprising "providing a centralized Web structure for the Web-based information of an organization, the Web structure comprising a plurality of Web sites linked together to form the Web structure; and identifying a user requesting access to the Web structure by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time."

Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating Web-based information exchange as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest identifying a user requesting access to the Web structure by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time. Rather, Leshem et al. describe reducing a structural representation of a Web site to a hierarchical tree representation in which each content object of the Web site is represented as a node of a tree, and reading and parsing the Web site's HTML pages to identify the architecture, i.e., the arrangement of URLs and links, of the Web site. Leshem et al. also describe including the content of or associated with a particular organization

within a Web site that corresponds to a particular Internet domain name, such as "merc-int.com,", and representing a Web site as a graph in which each node of the graph corresponds to a content object of the Web site and in which each interconnection between two nodes represents a link within the Web site. Accordingly, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest identifying a user by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Leshem et al.

Claims 2-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-12 likewise is patentable over Leshem et al.

Claim 13 recites a method for facilitating Web-based information exchange, the method comprising "providing one Web structure for storing the Web-based information of an organization; and electronically tracking, via a Web-based application, actions that include at least one of a decision to implement an idea and a decision to hold implementation of the idea, wherein one of the actions occurs at a level within the organization that is separate from any other levels in which remaining of the actions occur."

Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating Web-based information exchange as recited in Claim 13. Specifically, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest electronically tracking, via a Web-based application, actions that include at least one of a decision to implement an idea and a decision to hold implementation of the idea, where one of the actions occurs at a level within the organization that is separate from any other levels in which remaining of the actions occur. Rather, Leshem et al. describe reducing a structural representation of a Web site to a hierarchical tree representation in which each content object of the Web site is represented as a node of a tree, and reading and parsing the Web site's HTML pages to identify the architecture, i.e., the arrangement of URLs and links, of the Web site. Leshem et al. also describe including the content of or associated with a particular organization within a Web site that corresponds to a particular Internet domain name, such as "merc-int.com,", and representing a Web site as a graph in which each node of the graph corresponds to a content object of the Web site and in which each interconnection between two nodes represents a link within the Web site.

Accordingly, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest electronically tracking, via a Web-based application, actions that include at least one of a decision to implement an idea and a decision to hold implementation of the idea, where one of the actions occurs at a level within the organization that is separate from any other levels in which remaining of the actions occur. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Leshem et al.

Claims 14-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants submit that Claims 14-18 likewise is patentable over Leshem et al.

Claim 19 recites a method for facilitating computer network-based information exchange, the method comprising the steps of "providing a plurality of sites for containing network-based information on a central server; linking the plurality of sites to one another so that any one of the sites is at least indirectly accessible from any one of the remaining sites; and naming each of the plurality of sites on the central server wherein all of the plurality of names are based on a common theme and wherein each name identifies the network-based information stored at each site; and identifying a user requesting access to one of the sites by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time."

Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating computer network-based information exchange as recited in Claim 19. Specifically, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest identifying a user requesting access to one of the sites by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time. Rather, Leshem et al. describe reducing a structural representation of a Web site to a hierarchical tree representation in which each content object of the Web site is represented as a node of a tree, and reading and parsing the Web site's HTML pages to identify the architecture, i.e., the arrangement of URLs and links, of the Web site. Leshem et al. also describe including the content of or associated with a particular organization within a Web site that corresponds to a particular Internet domain name, such as "merc-int.com," and representing a Web site as a graph in which each node of the graph corresponds to a content object of the Web site and in which each interconnection between two nodes represents a link within the Web site.

Accordingly, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest identifying a user by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 19 is submitted to be patentable over Leshem et al.

Claim 20 recites a system for facilitating Web-based information exchange, said system comprising "a device; and a server connected to said device and configured to: provide a Web-based application including a centralized Web structure for Web-based information of an organization, the Web structure comprising a plurality of Web sites linked together to form the Web structure; and electronically track, via the Web-based application, actions that include at least one of a decision to review an idea and a decision to obtain funding to implement the idea, wherein one of the actions occurs at a level within the organization that is separate from any other levels in which remaining of the actions occur."

Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a system for facilitating Web-based information exchange as recited in Claim 20. Specifically, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a server configured to electronically track, via the Web-based application, actions that include at least one of a decision to review an idea and a decision to obtain funding to implement the idea, where one of the actions occurs at a level within the organization that is separate from any other levels in which remaining of the actions occur. Rather, Leshem et al. describe reducing a structural representation of a Web site to a hierarchical tree representation in which each content object of the Web site is represented as a node of a tree, and reading and parsing the Web site's HTML pages to identify the architecture, i.e., the arrangement of URLs and links, of the Web site. Leshem et al. also describe including the content of or associated with a particular organization within a Web site that corresponds to a particular Internet domain name, such as "merc-int.com," and representing a Web site as a graph in which each node of the graph corresponds to a content object of the Web site and in which each interconnection between two nodes represents a link within the Web site. Accordingly, Leshem et al. do not describe or suggest a server configured to electronically track as recited in Claim 20. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 20 is submitted to be patentable over Leshem et al.

Claims 21-32 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 20. When the recitations of Claims 21-32 are considered in combination with the

recitations of Claim 20, Applicants submit that Claims 21-32 likewise are patentable over Leshem et al.

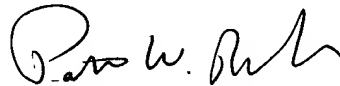
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-32 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 33 depends from independent Claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 33 are also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claims 34 and 35 depend from independent Claim 13, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 34 and 35 are also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070